ERIC Document Resume	See Instruction Sheet	DATE OF RESUME	DATE RECEIVED

A. PUBLICATION DATA

1. ERIC NUMBER	2. ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO(S).	3. IDENTIFICATION NO.	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW
ED002168	N.A.	N.A.	

4. AUTHOR(S): Moore, Arthur E.

5. TITLE OF DOCUMENT ABSTRACTED: How To Cut Delinquency in Half

6. PUBLICATION TITLE: N.A.

MICROFILM COPY AVAILABLE YES ☒ NO ☐

COPYRIGHT GRANTED YES ☐ NO ☒

COPYRIGHT RELEASE FILED YES ☐ NO ☐

TYPE OF REPORT
PROPOSAL ☐
IN-PROGRESS ☐
FINAL ☒
FOLLOW-UP ☐

7. EDITOR(S): N.A.

8. PLACE OF ORIGIN
ORG.
ST. N.A.
CITY, STATE
TELE. EXT.
INST/LOC CODE

9. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE: N.A.

OTHER ERIC REFERENCES:

10. VOL.	11. PAGES	12. MO./YR.	13. TOTAL PP.
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	4

ERIC SATELLITE CODE

B. INDEXING DATA

14. SUBJECT AREA

15. TYPE OF ENDEAVOR: Report

16. INDEXING TERMS (6-12)

		Juvenile	delinquency
delinquency prevention	juvenile court		
protective services	protective casework		
community support	social adjustment		

17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS):

A 50% reduction in delinquency was noted as a result of a community-wide effort known as Child and Family Protective Services, whereby children and families are helped before problems or offenses are serious enough to warrant court action. Programs are established jointly by the community, the local school district, and the Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court functions as a community aid in local efforts to prevent neglect and delinquency; staff members of the court are assigned to advise, assist, and do protective casework. The major concern of the effort is the adequate emotional and social adjustment of the child in his family, school, and neighborhood. Sources of referral are parents, schools, police, community individuals, Juvenile Court, and social welfare agencies. Acceptance of assistance is entirely voluntary.

Computations are presented showing the effectiveness of protective services in each community of Oakland County, and the reduction of Juvenile Court cases for the years prior to the services and for the years of 1960 and 1961. A tabulation is also shown on the protective services rendered in fifteen communities of the county and consequent reduction of total Juvenile Court cases. The number of cases coming to the attention of the court has declined, while more protective cases were handled in the communities without court process.

ERIC No.

18. SOURCE OF ABSTRACT

C. FUNDING DATA

19. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	20. DIVISION OR DEPT.	21. CONTRACT NO. / PROJECT NO.
	22. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	
	23. DURATION OF PROJECT	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education

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HOW TO CUT DELINQUENCY IN HALF

THE STORY OF PREVENTION
IN
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HOW TO CUT DELINQUENCY IN HALF

The Story of Prevention

In Oakland County, Michigan

1957 to 1962

This is the story of a 50% reduction in delinquency through community wide effort known as "Child and Family Protective Services." Communities prevent delinquency -- By aggressive action - By protecting their children and strengthening good family influence - By caring for every needy child!

In a sense, it is the story of the efforts and the accomplishments of "Good Samaritans" of these communities. They have truly been "Brothers' Keepers."

In another way, it merely proves the efficacy of good citizenship, the stuff America is really made of.

Most of all, it renews our faith in fine American homes and proves the great value of good American family life.

Write us for more details. Here follow the succinct facts of success.

Arthur E. Moore

Hon. Arthur E. Moore
Judge of Juvenile Court

Donald E. Adams

Hon. Donald E. Adams
Judge of Juvenile Court

James W. Hunt

James W. Hunt, Director
Juvenile Court & Children's Services

James H. VanLeuven

James H. VanLeuven
Director of Protective Services

SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

1. What Are "Protective Services?"

"Protective Services" is the formal organization of citizens by resolution or ordinance within a community to help children and families before problems or offenses are such as to need Court action. This is an effect of the citizenry of the community with the support of a Court caseworker to combine all community resources and to assist children and families at the community level.

The purpose is to aid socially unadjusted families, children, and youth at the local community level as a recognized community responsibility. In this lies the prevention of delinquency.

2. How Are "Protective Services" Established?

Child and Family Protective Services are programs established jointly by the municipality or community involved, the local school district, and the Juvenile Court.

3. What is the Function of the Juvenile Court?

The function of the Court is to aid local communities and their committees in their local efforts to prevent neglect and delinquency. Only those dealing deeply with delinquency fully understand the problem.

4. How Does the Court Help?

Trained staff members of the Court are assigned as caseworkers to advise and assist local committees and do protective casework. The Judge also advises.

5. What Considerations Are Involved in the Protection Plan?

The major concern is the adequate emotional, social adjustment of the child in his family, school, and neighborhood. Early casework and community assistance will help avoid official Court action.

6. Sources of Referral - Voluntary Acceptance:

The sources of referral are parents, schools, police, community individuals, Juvenile Court, and social welfare agencies. Acceptance of assistance by parents and children is entirely voluntary.

COMPUTATIONS

SHOWING EFFECTIVENESS OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

IN EACH COMMUNITY OF OAKLAND COUNTY
and
REDUCTION OF JUVENILE COURT CASES BY PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMUNITY INVOLVED	SCHOOL CENSUS			NUMBER OF JUVENILE COURT CASES			Decrease Or Increase in Court Cases In 1960 & 1961 Compared To Year Prior To Protective Services		Percentage Of Decrease Or Increase In Court Cases In 1960 and 1961 Compared To Year Prior To Protective Services	
	In Year Prior To Protective Services	In 1960	In 1961	In Respective Year Prior To Protective Services	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961
Clawson City	'59 6,831	7,099	7,128	16	20	16	+4	0	+25%	0
Farmington Twp.	'59 14,675	15,885	15,824	30	33	30	+3	0	+10%	0
Ferndale City	'59 14,598	14,503	13,714	61	56	42	-5	-19	-9%	-31.1%
Keego Harbor City	'58 3,088	3,098	3,164	28	9	7	-21	-21	-75%	-75.0%
Madison Hts. City	'57 30,051	15,618	16,023	59	47	31	-12	-28	-20%	-47.5%
Milford Twp.	'58 5,335	6,362	6,542	8	7	8	-1	0	-12.5%	0
Novi Village	'57 1,298	1,711	1,760	8	12	2	+4	-6	+50%	-75.0%
Oak Park City	'59 10,269	10,652	11,902	17	10	13	-7	-4	-41%	-23.5%
Pontiac City	'57 35,029	36,242	36,587	352	254	187	-98	-165	-27%	-46.9%
Rochester Village	'58 7,176	8,194	8,665	32	10	13	-22	-19	-68%	-59.4%
Royal Oak City	'57 32,632	35,559	36,129	163	72	52	-91	-111	-55%	-68.0%
Royal Oak Twp.	'57 4,105	2,732	1,607	90	39	19	-51	-71	-56%	-78.8%
Southfield City	'59 12,883	13,807	14,426	39	30	13	-9	-26	-25%	-66.6%
Troy City	'57 5,195	5,787	5,982	31	16	22	-15	-9	-48%	-29.0%
Walled Lake City	'58 9,456	10,251	10,555	28	9	13	-19	-15	-67%	-53.5%
TOTALS	172,621	187,500	190,008	962	624	468	-340	-494	-35.34%	-51.35%

Note: Three other communities - Clarkston, Lake Orion, and Avondale - are also now engaged in Protective Services.
Hazel Park and Berkley records are kept separately. The others are too new for comparison.

Total Population of Communities Presently Served - 439,904

TABULATIONS

of

PROTECTIVE SERVICES RENDERED IN FIFTEEN COMMUNITIES OF OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

AND CONSEQUENT

REDUCTION OF TOTAL JUVENILE COURT CASES

TYPE OF CASE	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	In Respective Years Prior To Protective Services ***	1961	Percentage Of Decrease
COURT CASES *	862	872	644	624	468	962	468	51.4%
PROTECTIVE SERVICE CASES **	None	498	564	801	678	School Census of Areas Served (0 - 19 Years Population)		
GRAND TOTAL	862	1,370	1,208	1,425	1,146	1957 113,127 1958 119,425 1959 121,947 1960 187,500		

*Official Court Cases

**Handled by Local Community Without Court Petition

***This is Total Number of Cases in Each Community in the Respective Year Prior to Its Protective Services.

Total Population of Communities Presently Served 439,904

CONCLUSIONS

In each of the years since 1957, when "Protective Services" began, the volume of official cases coming to the Juvenile Court has declined. In 1960 official Court cases declined 340 cases. In 1961, 51.35 less official cases came to the Court, as compared to the period prior to "Protective Services."

On the other hand, many more protective cases were handled in the local communities without Court process. This volume of protective cases has increased each year until 1961, and it is now declining.* We believe this is desirable and necessary. How else may we prevent delinquency than by serving more children, much better, much earlier? We hope that the total of protective services will not increase hereafter.

We believe,

1. All local communities are well able to marshall their resources and handle many of their pre-delinquency and pre-neglect problems themselves under "Protective Services" without Court action.

2. Thus the volume of cases needing to come officially before any Juvenile Court and requiring Court mandate or directive, will be greatly reduced by intensive "Protective Services."

3. "Protective Services" afford each community better understanding of children and families and the methods of assisting them in all phases of community life.

4. Communities making an intensive "Protective Service" effort become much less punitive in their attitudes toward misbehavior, and more understanding of the need of solving children and family problems.

5. A community is like a family. If it can solve its own problems and maintain a healthy life within; if it may serve and care for its every member, and reject or ostracize none, then it is indeed successful as a community as is the case of the successful family.

We are evaluating what we have done. We hope to improve our future "Protective Service" efforts.

Arthur E. Moore

Arthur E. Moore, Judge
Juvenile Court of Oakland County
Courthouse Tower
Pontiac, Michigan

*See table on previous page.